

State Department of Fair Employment and Housing  
Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board



## YOUR RIGHTS AND REMEDIES AS A VICTIM OF HATE VIOLENCE

In California, **HATE VIOLENCE** is defined as: **any act of violence or threat of violence against a person or their property because of that person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation or position in a labor dispute.** Hate violence can be:

- verbal or written threats
- physical assault or attempted assault
- graffiti, vandalism, or property damage

There are two types of laws that protect against hate violence: Criminal Law and Civil Law. California law enforcement authorities, such as the police, sheriffs, district attorney, and the Attorney General, enforce criminal laws that punish the persons committing acts of hate violence. The **State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)** enforces the California civil laws that provide protection and money damages to victims of hate violence.

The **State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board** also provides monetary relief to any California resident who is injured or threatened with injury as a result of hate violence. Immediate family members may also qualify for assistance under this program.

### Available Relief for Victims of Hate Violence

| Department of Fair Employment & Housing  | Victim Compensation Program                        |
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| • Restraining orders against persons committing the act of violence  | • Relocation expenses                              |
| • Damages up to \$150,000 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Property repair</li><li>• Emotional suffering and distress</li><li>• Cost of medical treatment</li><li>• Lost wages</li><li>• Damages to punish the wrongdoer</li></ul> | • Home security installation                       |
|  | • Mental Health treatment or counseling            |
|  | • Medical and Dental Expenses                      |
|  | • Lost wages                                       |
|  | • Loss of support for deceased or disabled victims |
| • Court-ordered civil fines up to \$25,000   | • Funeral and/or burial costs                      |
| • Attorney fees  | • Maximum of \$70,000 for individual victims       |

### What Should Victims Do?

1. You should report any violent threat or act to the police. **Call 9-1-1.** If local law enforcement does not investigate, contact the California Attorney General at **(800)-952-5225** or **TTY (800)-952-5548**.
2. A complaint can be filed with **DFEH**. The complaint must be filed within one year from the date the victim of the act or threat of violence becomes aware of the perpetrator(s) identity, but in no case more than three years from the date of harm. An attorney is not required and there is no fee for the Department's services. All languages can be accommodated.

To file a claim with **DFEH**, call **(800)- 884-1684**, **TTY (800)-700-2320**, or **(800)-700-2320 Hearing-Impaired Relay Service** or contact us by e-mail at [hate.report@dfeh.ca.gov](mailto:hate.report@dfeh.ca.gov). To learn more about DFEH and the complaint-filing process, visit the Department's website at [www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov)

3. **Victims or their family members can call the Victim Compensation** hotline at **(800)-777-9229** or the Hearing-Impaired Relay Service at **(800)-735-2929** to apply for compensation. In most cases, you must call within one year. All languages can be accommodated.